

"wyck"

6026 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HABS NO. 7-3

HABS

PA.

51-GERM

115-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 7
Eastern Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Perot Bissell, District Officer
1901 Architects Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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51. GERGO

46

WYCK
6026 Germantown Avenue
Germantown, Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

Owner: Caspar Wistar Haines.

Date of Erection: Oldest part, 1690 (?).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and cellar.

Materials of Construction: Stone and stucco.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ See also the following references.:

Gardens of Colony and State, I, 344-346; includes plot
plan of garden and plan of house.

Wallace and Miller, Colonial Houses, 210, 211.

Eberlein, H.D., and Lippincott, H.M., The Colonial Homes
of Philadelphia and its Neighborhood, 236.

Cousins and Riley, The Colonial Architecture of Philadelphia,
70-72.

"WYCK"
6026 GERMANTOWN AVENUE, GERMANTOWN
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

The oldest part of "Wyck" is the western end now the kitchen wing, which is said to date from 1690. Later the part towards the street was built. We have no record of the year, but it ante-dated the Revolution. A broad opening was left between the two parts which was afterwards enclosed and the house then presented one unbroken front.

In 1824 the owner comissioned William Strickland, a notable figure among Philadelphia's early generation of architects, to make certain alterations. All of the windows in the gable end towards the street were removed and a fireplace constructed in the center of the gable. The original fireplace on the north side was taken down and in the first and second floor new windows were installed in the north wall overlooking the garden. Thus the house presents a blank wall to the street.

The older part of the house was built by Hans Milan whose daughter Margaret married Dirck Jansen, their daughter Catherine married Caspar Wistar and their daughter Margaret in turn married Reuben Haines. The house is still in the possession of the Haines' family. The present owner and occupant is Caspar Wistar Haines. Reuben gave the house its name, "Wyck", which is the Welsh for "White"†

"Wyck" was in the thick of the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, and was used as a field hospital. The covered passageway between the two parts became an operating room.

When General Lafayette paid his visit to the United States in 1825, he was entertained at "Wyck" (July 20th). Here the General, in the words of a contemporary account "received visits from ladies and gentlemen of respectability".

North of the house is the lovely garden filled with old fashioned flowers - phlox, marigolds, fuscias, larkspur, etc., and roses in profusion. The arbor against the house on the garden side with its cover of vines adds to the general charm, and on the south side the whitewashed stuccoed wall affords an effective background for the vine clad lattice. South of the house is an expanse of lawn, shrubs and trees, and among the latter is a Spanish chestnut, a seedling from a tree planted by Washington on Judge Peter's property at "Belmont" in Fairmount Park.

*Incorrect. "Wynne" is the name for white.

An atmosphere of quiet, peace and contentment pervades this charming memorial of our past, and inside and out, "Wyck" is a delight to all who have a fondness for the old days.

References:

1. "Wyck" by Charles F. Jenkins, a pamphlet, no date.

2. "Wyck", an article in House and Garden, November 1902, by Gilbert Hindermeyer, with excellent illustrations from photographs.

E. Perot Burrill

District Officer.

Reviewed 1936 by H.C.F.

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Addendum to
Wyck (Haines House)
6062 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-7-3

HABS
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ST. GERMAN
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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240